

VZCZCXYZ0000
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHKO #1571 1610901
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 090901Z JUN 08
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4887
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE 3785
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE 9784
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RHMFISS/USFJ IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 001571

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/09/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [JA](#) [KN](#)
SUBJECT: JAPAN-DPRK: TALKS TO TAKE PLACE JUNE 11-12

REF: TOKYO 1548

Classified By: Ambassador J. Thomas Schieffer per 1.4 (b/d)

¶1. (C) Summary: Japan and the DPRK held informal discussions June 7 and will meet formally in Beijing June 11-12 to discuss abductions and other outstanding bilateral issues. MOFA Asia DG Saiki and DPRK Ambassador Song Il-ho agreed on the importance of both sides' achieving results, MOFA told Embassy Tokyo. The North Koreans approached the June 7 discussions with a "serious attitude" and, significantly, did not claim that the abductions issue had already been resolved when DG Saiki raised it. End Summary.

¶2. (C) Japan and the DPRK agreed during a recent "informal exchange of views" (reftel) to hold formal discussions in Beijing June 11-12, MOFA Northeast Asia Director Shigeo Yamada told Embassy Tokyo. During the nearly three-hour talks on June 7, MOFA Asia Director General Akitaka Saiki stressed to his DPRK counterpart Ambassador Song Il-ho the need to make progress on the abductions issue; absent progress, Japan-DPRK relations will not improve. Significantly, the North Koreans did not deploy their "the abductions issue has already been resolved" response, Yamada added.

¶3. (C) Overall, the North Koreans took a serious attitude during the informal talks, and Ambassador Song agreed with DG Saiki's statement that "it is important for both sides to achieve results," Yamada continued. The North Koreans' serious attitude was reminiscent of the last round of Working Group talks in Mongolia last September, and "this represents a small step forward," Yamada explained. The issue of the JAL hijackers still in North Korea was not discussed, Yamada said.
SCHIEFFER